Arkansas History Commission News
Arkansas's State Archives

ISSUE 10 **DECEMBER 2012**

Richter Leaving As Director of Commission

Dr. Wendy Richter announced her resignation from the Arkansas History Commission at the December 6 Commission meeting. Richter will continue her career in Arkansas becoming the Head of Special Collections and Associate Professor at Ouachita Baptist University. Her last day at the Commission is December 31 and she begins her new position in January, 2013.

Richter's leadership of the Commission has resulted in a complete renovation of the state's official archives. "In her seven years with the Arkansas History Commission, Wendy transformed the operation in three major areas. First, she transformed the physical space – more space has been added for staff and collections storage and the research room has been arranged for easier use by patrons and staff; second, she changed the way the Commission operates – patrons now have more hands on access to materials than ever before; and lastly, she improved the perception of the Commission by moving the Commission into outreach that resulted in many people learning about the scope and potential of the Commission's collections for the first time," said Dr. Ray Granade, chairman of the Commission. "I will miss her ability, experience and helpful personality," he continued.

Richter started as Director of the Commission in 2005, replacing long-time director, Dr. John L. Ferguson. She has spent her career in the archives field, working at Weyerhaeuser, the Garland County Historical Society, the History Commission and Ouachita Baptist University. She returns to OBU replacing Phyllis Kennison as Head of Special Collections.

"Wendy understands how archives work both from a staff and visitor perspective. She has increased my knowledge of how archives work and taught me a great deal about how to do archives right and what not to do," said Richard Davies, Director of Parks and Tourism. "Her expansion of the archives to include the regional archives at SARA and NEARA makes the collection more accessible to Arkansans than ever before," he continued. Davies cited her "honest belief in the importance of the largest collection of Arkansas documents anywhere" and her commitment to "take care of it, make it available and be able to find it" as her strongest attributes.

In announcing her resignation Richter said: "Becoming State Historian was a career-long dream. It has been an honor to serve the commission and I will always be grateful for the opportunity." The Commission announced Archival Manager Jane Wilkerson as interim Director. A search to fill Richter's position will begin immediately.

Jarvis, Stubblefield Promoted, Charlton Joins Staff

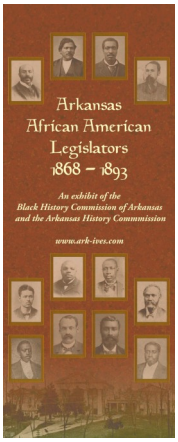
December brings more staff changes with staff members promoted and a new face joining the History Commission team. Tatyana Stubblefield has been named the interim African-American History Coordinator, Lauren Jarvis moves to an Archivist position, and Hannah Charlton joins the staff as a Library Technician.

Stubblefield's experience includes seven years as an Archival Technician at the Commission and she fills the position previously held by Linda McDowell.

Jarvis served as a AHC Library Technician for five years and moves into the position vacated by Paula Taylor's retirement. Both Tatyana and Lauren look forward to new challenges and promoting the AHC's collections.

Charlton received her B.A. in History and Anthropology/Archaeology from Millersville University in Millersville, PA. Her professional experience includes work in the museum and cultural resources fields for such divergent agencies as Historic York, Inc., the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Blue Ridge National Parkway, Millersville University Archaeology Lab and the Gasner Library Archives and Special Collections in Millersville, PA. Join us in welcoming Hannah and congratulating Tatyana and Lauren!

New Traveling Exhibit Available



Between 1868 and 1893, eighty-five African Americans served in the Arkansas General Assembly. A new traveling panel exhibit, *Arkansas African American Legislators 1868-1893,* from the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Arkansas History Commission, tells the story of the rise and fall of their legislative service. Only forty-six photographs of the eighty-five legislators survive and they are an integral part of the display. Also featured is a complete listing of the legislators and a short history of post-civil war and election law "reforms" that effectively ended African Americans election to legislative positions until the 1970s.

Reserve the African American Legislators Exhibit for your site Today!

Comprised of eight stand-alone panels, the exhibit is available for display at sites across Arkansas. Reserve your spot today!

From the Director

For the past seven and one-half years, it has been a privilege to serve as State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission. During that time, our agency moved into the modern era and reached a number of significant milestones. Among the major achievements have been initiation of operation of two branch archives; application for and administration of approximately $1.5 million in grant project funds; growth of staff from twenty to twenty-five; production of seminars for the first time; expansion of other outreach programming such as traveling exhibits; completion of a facility remodel and major equipment upgrade; development of new web pages and content; acquisition of major collections; expansion into new space in the MAC; compilation and publication of two books; creation and placement of almost 1,000 manuscript collection finding aids online; enhanced relations with other organizations; and elevation of staff professionalism to a new level. All of these improvements enable the AHC to offer more information and better service to you, our patrons. Because of the efforts of the History Commission and the staff's hard work, the agency has accomplished a great deal and now stands poised to move into the future.

It has been an exciting time of many changes for the AHC, and I am pleased to have been a part of it. Becoming State Historian was the realization of a career-long dream, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve in that capacity. As I move into another phase of my life, I am indeed thankful for my time at the AHC, and for all of the friends and colleagues who have made my job easier. I will remember my time with the agency fondly, and wish continued success for the State Archives.

BRINGING THE AHC TO YOU

December 6	*History Commission Meeting* *AHC Conference Room* *Little Rock*
December 11-December 22	*"Fought in earnest"* *Exhibit* *Saline County Library* *Benton*
December 19	*Presentation* *"Hot Springs and the Civil War"* *Hot Springs Rotary Club* *Hot Springs*
December 22-25	***Christmas Holiday*** ***History Commission Closed***
January 1	***New Year's Day Holiday*** ***History Commission Closed***

News from NEARA

The holiday season is full of traditions and the Christmas card is one tradition that endures, even in these days of texts, e-mails and instant messaging. In 1843, the Christmas card was born in England when Sir Henry Cole contracted his friend, artist John Calcott Horsley, to design and produce cards that he could send for the holidays. Horsley sold the extras he produced, and a business was born.

German printer Louis Prang brought the tradition to the United States in 1875. He started a printing business that mass produced greeting cards. The development of printing technology and railroads brought the prices of purchasing cards and mailing them to friends and family who lived far away within the reach of most people. By the late 1800s, sending Christmas cards was popular for most families.

From the beginning, mass-produced greeting cards included artwork and, often, preprinted messages. Some were ornate, with fringe, silk, and other ornamentation. Some were simple rectangles, while others were cut into myriad shapes. They ranged the gamut from secular to religious, serious to funny. Today, they even include cards with recording devices where one can record messages to the recipient and small chips that have pre-recorded music. In the United States alone, greeting cards account for more than $7 billion in retail sales each year.

NEARA's holdings contain more than 200 advertising, greeting, and post cards. Ranging from photo postcards to business advertising cards to, yes, even Christmas and birthday cards, the collection is representative of those mass produced in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Those shared among family members and friends document travels, share news, and pass along greetings and well wishes for a variety of occasions. There are postcards from around the United States, as well as several countries in Europe. The cards in the collection range from simple, handmade cards to ornate embossed and ornamental cards. Together, they represent a rich resource of both the commercial card printing industry and the families that chose to send and save these wonderful bits of art.

Know your Commissioners

Arkansas History Commission

Ms. Dorathy Boulden, El Dorado
Dr. Ray Granade, Arkadelphia
Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Jonesboro
Mr. Michael Lindsey, Fayetteville
Mr. Robert McCarley, Little Rock
Ms. Elizabeth Robbins, Hot Springs
Dr. Robert Sherer, Little Rock

Black History Commission of Arkansas

Mr. Marion Butler, Sherwood
Ms. Carla Coleman, Little Rock
Rev. Barry Dobson, El Dorado
Ms. Joyce Gibson, Prescott
Dr. John W. Graves, Arkadelphia
Mr. Myron Jackson, Little Rock
Mr. James Lawson, Jacksonville

Commissioner Spotlight

As a former English teacher and in her current position as Executive Director of the Garland County Historical Society, Elizabeth Robbins is well-suited to serve on the Arkansas History Commission. Appointed in 2011, Robbins is a native of Hot Springs and received her B.S.E. from the University of Arkansas and her M.A. from New Mexico Highlands University.

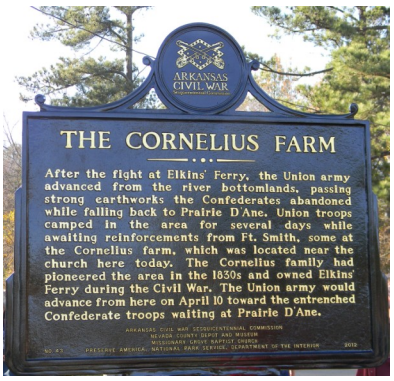
"I deeply enjoy getting to know, learning from, and being a part of the AHC community of people," she stated recently. Having known Robbins for many years, Dr. Richter states: " Robbins brings knowledge, energy and a positive outlook to the Commission." In her spare time, Robbins enjoys reading history, family genealogy and needle-pointing.

News from SARA

A Civil War marker commemorating the Elkins Ferry National Historic Landmark and the Cornelius Farm site was dedicated at the Missionary Grove Baptist Church on Nevada County Road 37 near Prescott on Sunday, November 25, 2012.

The Elkins Ferry National Historic Landmark straddles the Little Missouri River and lies in both Clark and Nevada Counties. As the Arkansas portion of the Red River Campaign of 1864, General Frederick Steele led a force of 8,000 Union troops, including colored troops, out of Little Rock on March 23, 1864, into southwest Arkansas. Skirmishing with Confederate forces all along the way, Steele's army crossed the Little Missouri River near Elkins Ferry into Nevada County, then Hempstead County, in early April 1864. Fighting intensified after Union troops crossed the river and encountered Confederate forces hoping to defend the Confederate state capital at Washington.

Union forces advanced through the lowlands to the Cornelius Farm on higher ground away from the river. Mrs. Malinda Ward Cornelius, whose husband had already died in the war, resided east of the road from the ferry and near a defensive line of earthworks and downed trees that the Confederates had built on the bluff overlooking the Little Missouri bottoms. Steele stopped at the Cornelius Farm for a few days to await the arrival of an additional four to five thousand troops out of Fort Smith under the command of Colonel John M. Thayer. For a few days thousands of troops were camped in the area. Steele then proceeded to the Battle of Prairie D'Ane, a few miles away near present-day Prescott, and then on to Camden.



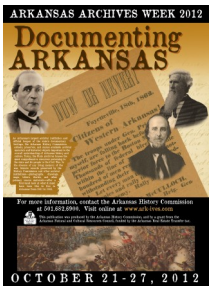
The marker was sponsored by a grant from the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Nevada County Depot and Museum. Peggy Lloyd, archival manager at SARA and a current board member and former curator of the Depot Museum, wrote the application for the marker. Manufactured by Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio, the handsome marker is cast aluminum. The marker cap is painted black with gold lettering.

Mr. John McWilliams, a member of the church, worked with Peggy and the Prescott Chamber of Commerce to place the marker just inside the cemetery at the church. Mr. McWilliams' granddaughter played a violin solo of the " Ashokan Farewell" to open the dedication. A modern piece, it was used extensively by Ken Burns in his famed Civil War television documentary. Mr. Don Collins of the local community spoke on his finds of Civil War relics in the vicinity. Mrs. Shirley Graham of Arkadelphia, whose husband is a Cornelius descendant, spoke on her research into the early history of the Cornelius family in Arkansas. Mr. McWilliams, himself a Cornelius descendant, and other Cornelius descendants in the audience along with Mayor Terry Oliver of Prescott and the staff of the Depot Museum unveiled the marker.

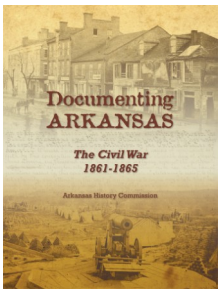
Before Christmas, another marker will be installed near Prescott in front of the Travel Adventures Truck Stop at the Junction of US Highway 371 and Interstate 30 at Exit 44. This marker will commemorate the Battle of Prairie D'Ane when Union troops engaged Confederate forces massed to protect the road to Washington. Suffering from a lack of supplies, General Steele turned his forces toward Camden under cover of darkness, leaving elements of his army to protect his flanks at the Battle of Moscow, a scattered antebellum village now on the outskirts of Prescott.

Plans are afoot for other Civil War markers at a variety of sites in the region.

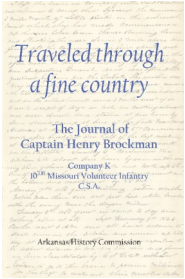
Gifts for History Buffs!



As the season of giving is upon us, the AHC has several gift ideas for the history buff on your list. How about a book and a poster? Images from the AHC's newest publication, *Documenting Arkansas: The Civil War 1861-1865* are featured on this year's Archive Week poster. The 138 page soft-cover book contains over 200 documents from eighty different collections at the History Commission and uses these primary source materials to tell the story of the Civil War from an Arkansas perspective. The full-color volume can be ordered **here**; cost is $29 plus shipping.



Another publication, *Traveled through a fine country: The Journal of Captain Henry Brockman,* would also make a fine gift. Captain Henry Brockman served in Company K, 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, Confederate Army during the Civil War. In his journal, he describes in detail his daily activities, the many places he visited, and the things he saw during his time in the military. As Brockman "traveled through a fine country," his tour of duty took him to major battles in Arkansas and Louisiana, including stops at Jacksonport, Pocahontas, Yellville, Des Arc, Helena, Little Rock, Benton, Arkadelphia, Warren, Camden, and Shreveport. The captain's journal has been meticulously transcribed, published, and available in book format **here.**



Posters are free, but must be picked up from the AHC offices in Little Rock, Washington, or Powhatan.

December Locations for "Fought in earnest"

Fought in earnest travels to Benton this month. On display at the Saline County Library from December 11-22, the exhibit chronicles Arkansas's role in the Civil War through primary source documents from the AHC's vast Civil War holdings.

Various locations across the state will host the exhibit during the Civil War Sesquicentennial giving all Arkansans a chance to learn about our state's role in the Civil War.

Mark the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War by reserving "Fought in earnest" for your site today!

Next History Bits and Bites in January

Start off your new year by making plans to attend the AHC's monthly *Bits and Bites* program. Held on the last Friday of each month, speakers from the AHC staff present instruction on various topics that will aid you in your research and preservation of materials.

Due to the holidays, *Bits and Bites* will NOT be held in December. January's presentation will feature Ronnie Watts delving deep into the world of microfilm and microphotography.

Bits and Bites is a free program, but registration is required. Join us in the AHC Conference Room on January 25th for this informative presentation. Be sure to bring your lunch and we'll see you there!

Register for "History Bits and Bites" here.

Registration deadline:

January 23rd

The AHC Team

Julienne Crawford, AHC's curator, cares for and manages the Commission's three-dimensional objects, designs traveling and temporary exhibits featuring items from the AHC's collections, works with other institutions to include artifacts from the AHC in their exhibits, and acts as the Commission's in-house graphic designer for publications. In short, if you have seen a publication, exhibit or an object from the Commission, odds are Julienne had a part in its creation or loan.

Born in California, Julienne grew up in Wyoming and Virginia. After graduating with a B.S. in Anthropology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, she worked for the Heritage Foundation in Vicksburg and for the Clinton Presidential Library before coming to work at the AHC in 2000 as part-time help cataloging 13,000 photographs for the on-line digital catalog. She was hired as the full-time curator in 2002.

Julienne's favorite part of her job? "Choosing and putting together a story from the vast variety of materials that the AHC has in its collections is a lot of fun," she stated. "I just wish there was more time to get all the projects completed that we have planned," she continued.

Her wish for the future of the AHC? "Even more public outreach that is constantly visible, so people know about our wonderful collections," she answered.

Her sixteen month old daughter keeps Julienne busy when she is not at work. "My spare time is all about family," she concluded.

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